

HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

MONDAY 10th JUNE AT 7 PM

(Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

Councillor Loreen Macklin Horsfall (Chair) (LMH)

Councillor Andrea Hanks (Vice Chair) (AH)

Councillor Robert Capon (RC)

Councillor David Faiers (DF)

Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

ABSENT:

Councillor Su Delve (SD)

Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring, Clerk (NS)

County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

3 members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm

1. Apologies for absence were received from SD and JT
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations
None
3. Public participation session
The maintenance of the War Memorial was raised. AH/DF to follow-up.
4. To consider any matters relating to highways, pavements, footpaths and trees
Pothole at entrance to Village Hall car park presenting a trip hazard to pedestrians – NS to report.
Parking in Holme Close – LM and CB to contact Havebury.

5. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

JS reported as follows:

- a) The quotes for replacement with recycled material were very high and for now it remains legally closed, with no easy diversion. It was suggested that for the time being, the ditch could be cleared, the dangerous timbers removed, and the path could be restored to a grass track 'with an uneven surface'. JS to investigate.
- b) There was a review to sort out 'Suffolk' signage. One was needed from the Garboldisham direction.
- c) The village gateways should be provided by Burgess Homes. It might make sense for Highways to put them up and the developer to reimburse.
- d) There was a large pothole by Knettishall Church that needed dealing with.
- e) The A1088 south of Ixworth would be closed for approximately three months from circa 7th July. This was to allow for the rebuilding of an unsafe bridge.

CB reported that the District Council's Local Plan had gone to the Inspectorate.

6. The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2024 were approved.

7. End of Year 2023/2024

The Internal Audit Report received from Heelis & Lodge was reviewed and it was agreed that any recommendations should be minuted. The recommendation that the precept amount should be minuted would be actioned.

The Council's Internal Controls & Risk Assessment were reviewed and agreed.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved

The Accounting Statements & Bank Reconciliation were approved.

The Explanation of Variances and the Statement on the Reserves were approved.

The Certificate of Exemption was approved.

Chair & Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Chair signed the Accounting Statements

The Responsible Finance Officer set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights as starting on Monday 17th June and finishing on Friday 26th July 2024.

The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the RFO and the Chair.

8. Planning

- a. To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations

None

b. Sarsons Meadow development update (if any)

A report had been received from Burgess Homes who plan to launch the marketing for the first phase towards the end of the Summer and for occupations to begin in the final quarter of the year. It was hoped to arrange an on-site meeting with the Council in the summer.

9. To receive an update on the purchase of a gov.uk domain

The domain had been purchased and councillor email accounts should be set up in the near future.

10. Finances

a. Council received the monthly Budget Report

b. Council approved the Payments Schedule

b. Council noted that the Nationwide was not currently accepting applications for business accounts but the Clerk would check regularly to see when they were open to applications.

11. Information updates from Councillors

AH thanked the volunteer distributors of the latest newsletter. Comments had been received about the state of the benches. DF agreed to check. Verge-cutting had been raised and it was noted that this was due soon.

JH reported that the four playground ideas were due to be posted on the website with a survey. She also asked about optimising the website so that it would come up high in search results.

BS would circulate the latest version of the draft Emergency Plan.

RC reported that various paths had been cut.

DF reported that the Village Hall chairs had been cleaned.

12. To review any action points raised at previous meetings and not already considered.

None

13. Date of next meeting: Monday 8th July 2024